

Amendment To The Claims

1-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method for affecting the growth of *Staphylococcus aureus* in the vaginal area, said method comprising the step of:

contacting the vaginal area with a compound selected from the group consisting of hexahydro beta acids, hexahydro beta salts, tetrahydroiso alpha acids, and tetrahydroiso alpha salts, in an amount effective to kill, inhibit, or otherwise control the growth or proliferation of *S. aureus* in the vaginal area without preventing while allowing the growth of *Lactobacillus* in the vaginal area at [[a]] an acidic pH in the range of 4.5 to 5.9 wherein the concentration of the compound is in the range of from about 0.2 ppm to about 25 ppm.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the compound is placed in contact with the vaginal area using a product comprising of an absorbent material and the compound.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the absorbent material is selected from the group consisting of a natural fiber, a synthetic fiber, a film, a foam, a wood, a pulp, a peat moss, and a superabsorbent polymer.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the product is selected from the group consisting of a tampon, suppository, disposable diaper, and sanitary napkin.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the compound is placed in contact with the vaginal area using a composition comprising of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and the compound.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the compound is either a douche or a topical ointment.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the compound is placed in contact with the vaginal area using a barrier contraceptive.

23. (Currently Amended) A product for affecting the growth of *Staphylococcus aureus* in the vaginal area, the product comprising an absorbent material, and a compound selected from the group consisting of hexahydro beta acids, hexahydro beta salts, tetrahydroiso alpha acids, and tetrahydroiso alpha salts, in an amount effective to kill, inhibit, or otherwise control the growth or proliferation of *S. aureus* in the vaginal area ~~without preventing~~ while allowing the growth of *Lactobacillus* in the vaginal area at [[a]] an acidic pH in the range of 4.5 to 5.0 wherein the concentration of the compound is in the range of from about 0.2 ppm to about 25 ppm.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) The product of claim 23, wherein the absorbent material is selected from the group consisting of a natural fiber, a synthetic fiber, a film, a foam, a wood, a pulp, a peat moss, and a superabsorbent polymer.